



IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1, 7, 14, 15, 21, 27, and 28, without prejudice.

Please amend claims 2-4, 6, 10-13, 16-18, 20, and 24-26, as follows:

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2. (amended) The method of claim [1] ~~8~~⁸ wherein said discrete event is a customer account and wherein said step of processing each discrete event comprises determining billing information for each said customer account.

C1
3. (amended) The method of claim [1] ~~8~~⁸ wherein said discrete event is a customer account, wherein said independent sub-events comprise customer service information and customer calls, and wherein said step of processing each discrete event comprises determining billing information for each customer account.

4. (amended) The method of claim [1] ~~8~~⁸ further comprising the steps of:
monitoring each of said segments to detect a failure; and
deactivating each of said segments when a failure is detected.

C2
6. (amended) The method of claim [1] ~~8~~¹ wherein said discrete events comprise individual events, master events and child events, each master event having a plurality of child events associated therewith, and wherein said step of distributing said discrete events comprises the step of distributing each child event and the master event associated therewith into the same segment.

C3
~~8~~¹⁰ 10. (amended) The method of claim [1] ~~8~~¹ wherein said step of storing the results of said processing is accomplished by writing the results of said processing to secondary storage.

~~9~~¹¹ 11. (amended) The method of claim [1] ~~8~~¹ wherein said steps of processing are performed using a symmetrical multiprocessing system.

~~10~~¹² 12. (amended) The method of claim [1] ~~8~~¹ wherein said steps of processing are performed using a massively parallel processing system.

~~11~~¹³ 13. (amended) The method of claim [1] ~~8~~¹ wherein said steps of processing are performed using a loosely coupled distributed processing system.

C4
~~13~~¹⁶ 16. (amended) The system of claim [14] ~~22~~¹² wherein said discrete event is a customer account and wherein each of said plurality of processors determines billing information for each customer account.

~~14~~¹⁷ 17. (amended) The system of claim [14] ~~22~~¹² wherein said discrete event is a customer account and wherein said independent sub-events comprise customer information and customer calls.